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DIVISION OF DISABILITY AND ELDER SERVICES

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Date: July 5, 2005

To: Agencies and Organizations Working with People with Disabilities

From: Holly Laux O'Higgins
Director, WisTech

Subject: Consumers for Membership on the Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Council

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is seeking representation from people with disabilities to serve on the statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Board. Representatives should be experienced in using assistive technology.

The AT Advisory Board will provide feedback and advice to the Department on the development of Wisconsin's three-year State Plan for Assistive Technology. The State Plan will outline how the Department will build on existing AT services to create a statewide network of AT services for people of all ages and disabilities.

Please help us reach out to consumers. Attached to this letter is a flyer for display on bulletin boards, inclusion in newsletters, and for general distribution. This flyer will also be posted at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/disabilities/wistech/index.htm>.

We are working against a federal deadline and the turn-around time is tight so any assistance you can provide would be appreciated. Interested consumers need to contact me or Ralph Pelkey by **Wednesday, July 20, 2005**. Our contact information is listed below.

Here are some basic details about AT Advisory Council membership:

- Consumer Council members need to be people who use assistive technology (including family members and guardians).
- Council members need to attend quarterly meetings via telephone or in-person.
- Council members will serve staggered two- or three-year terms.
- Council members will serve as volunteers but will be reimbursed for lodging, mileage and meal expenses.

Interested consumers who are not able to meet the July 20th deadline are still encouraged to contact me. This is a Council that may provide ongoing advice to the Department regarding the WisTech program.

Holly Laux O'Higgins can be reached at lauxhm@dhfs.state.wi.us or at (608) 266-8905. Ralph Pelkey can be reached at pelkerj@dhfs.state.wi.us or at (608) 267-9091.